

Training Leaders for Faith Sharing In Small Groups

1. Publicize Leader Training Sessions

- a. In bulletin, parish website, and pulpit announcement
- b. Schedule more than one session to give people more options.

2. Group Leader Training Session

1. Welcome leaders.
2. Have introductions.
3. Make sure each leader has a copy *Disciples on the Journey (DJ)*, the Lenten resource to be used in the parish.
4. If possible have group lists and enough copies of *Disciples on the Journey* books for each leader's group.
5. The group lists should have phone numbers, emails, and addresses of those participating in each group.
6. Have a handout with the following information.

a. Group leaders:

1. **are not** teaching or explaining the Scriptures to the group.
2. **are facilitators** who help their small faith sharing process run smoothly.
3. help everyone to feel welcomed and at ease
4. invite everyone in their group to participate without forcing or embarrassing anyone.
5. may invite group members to take turns providing light refreshments for the sessions.
6. could provide refreshments for the first session or ask another group member to do this
7. usually host the sessions in their home, but could invite group members to take turns hosting the sessions
8. usually lead the sessions, but can take turns with others to lead the process
9. need to read each session in advance and make sure that everything is ready for the prayer table and prayer rituals.

7. Group Leader Training Sessions

- a. Begin with an opening prayer. Preferably the prayer in Session One for the First Sunday of Lent.
- b. Have group leaders sit in small groups so they can go over the first session in *Disciples on the Journey*

- Lenten Program. This will acquaint them with the resource and better help them know what is expected.
- c. Encourage the leaders to call or email each participant in her/his group to welcome them, reiterating the time, date, and place of the meeting. The leader will need to give the participants her address and directions to find the home.
 - d. Ascertain if the leader can deliver the books to her group a week in advance of the first meeting or prefers to have participants pick up their book at Sunday Mass or at the parish office.
 - e. **Evaluation**
 1. Have copies of the evaluation available.
 2. Tell leaders that they are to give the evaluations to participants the second to the last week.
 3. The leader or another member of the group could collate the evaluations and email them to *Disciples on the Journey*.
 4. **Optional Collection** This is for parishes that may find it difficult to fund this program.
 - a. At the first meeting with the small group, the leader can announce that a collection will be taken at the last gathering to help the parish pay for the resources.
 - b. At the last meeting, a collection can be taken and the money given to the parish as reimbursement for resources.
- ii. Some groups like to have a meal together at the last meeting.
 - iii. Other groups prefer to gather after Easter to celebrate a meal together.
 - iv. Still other groups might want to continue to meet after Easter and they can decide on this at a meeting after Easter where only those who are interested would attend.